



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. Army Forces Central Command - SA
RIYADH SAUDI ARABIA
APO AE 09852



#2002-1

POLICY LETTER # 1 – PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

11 Aug 02

1. Statement of Military Purpose and Necessity. Operations in the USCENTCOM Area of Responsibility (AOR) place personnel of this command in countries where Islamic law and customs prohibit or restrict certain activities that are generally permissible in Western societies. Therefore it is necessary to impose restrictions to preserve U.S.-Host Nation relations and to avoid conflicts with Host Nation personnel that could interfere with our military mission.

2. Applicability.

a. This Policy Letter applies to all military personnel and federal civilian employees assigned, attached, on temporary duty, or otherwise sent to Saudi Arabia to support ARCENT-SA. It also applies to any unit, section, detachment, or other organizational entity attached to or otherwise under the direction or control of ARCENT-SA. This Policy Letter also applies to all family members accompanying the military personnel and federal civilian employees. The term “federal civilian employees” includes individuals who have an employment or contractual relationship with the Department of the Army, Department of Defense, or any other U.S. Government agency.

b. This Policy Letter applies to the personnel described above when they are in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, or any other country in the USCENTCOM AOR.

3. Punitive Effect. This Policy Letter is a lawful order. Personnel who violate this Policy Letter may be prosecuted and punished under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, federal labor laws, and/or federal criminal statutes, including the Military Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Act. Violators may also receive administrative sanctions, including separation from the service, termination of employment, or cancellation of a contractual relationship.

4. All personnel are required to read, understand and comply with this Policy Letter and United States Central Command General Order Number 1A, dated 19 December 2000, which is attached to this Policy Letter as enclosure 1.

5. Prohibited Activities. As addressed in General Order Number 1A, the following activities are prohibited:

a. Purchase, possession, use, transfer, or sale of privately-owned firearms, ammunition, explosives, or the introduction of these items into Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, or anywhere else in the USCENTCOM AOR. This prohibition also extends to any component part of such items (for example, a gun barrel or part of the housing group of a privately-owned weapon) and to any device used for explosives (for example, a fuse or detonating device).

b. Entrance into a Mosque or other site of Islamic religious significance by non- Muslims unless directed to do so by military authorities, required by military necessity, or as part of an official tour conducted with the approval of military authorities and the Host Nation. Muslim soldiers within this Command may attend prayer at the MODA Mosque, Gate 3, Eskan Village. Non-Muslims may not intentionally observe Islamic religious ceremonies. This prohibition on entering sites of Islamic religious significance and observing Islamic ceremonies also includes locations where Islamic justice takes place. It is prohibited to intentionally observe any punishments directed by Islamic courts.

c. Introduction, possession, purchase, sale, transfer, manufacture, consumption or use of any alcoholic beverage in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman and Jordan. Consumption of alcohol in moderate amounts is authorized while in Bahrain, but only when on TDY (after official duty hours), leave, or a valid, ARCENT-SA Commander approved “rest and relaxation” (R and R) pass. If anyone subject to this Policy Letter drinks alcoholic beverages in Bahrain, the following prohibitions also apply: It is prohibited for military personnel to drink while in uniform and it is prohibited to become intoxicated.

d. Introduction, purchase, possession, use, sale, transfer, manufacture, or consumption of narcotics or any other controlled substances or drug paraphernalia. Prescription drugs must be accompanied by the original prescription label of the prescribing medical facility or authority.

e. Introduction, possession, transfer, sale, creation, or display of any pornographic or sexually explicit photograph, computer software, video game, videotape, movie, drawing, book, magazine, web site file, playing cards or similar representations. For purposes of this prohibition, the words “pornographic” and “sexually explicit” include any medium, which displays human genitalia, uncovered female breast, or any human sexual act. The rental, purchase, or viewing of print media, videotapes, or DVD’s (to include MWR issued videotapes) obtained from government or AAFES facilities in Saudi Arabia, as well as the viewing of programs shown on government owned or leased cable television systems in Saudi Arabia, are not violations of General Order Number 1A or this Policy Letter.

f. Gambling of any kind, including sports pools, lotteries, raffles, and bingo. Gaming activities that do not cost the participant anything of value to play are not violations of this Policy Letter. Soldiers may participate in bingo games conducted by Security Assistance Organizations (USMTM and OPM-SANG) IAW partial waivers granted by the USCENTCOM and USARCENT Commanders.

g. Removing, possessing, selling, defacing, or destroying archeological artifacts or national treasures.

h. Selling, bartering, or exchanging any currency other than at the official Host Nation exchange rate.

i. Adopting as pets or mascots, caring for, or feeding any type of domestic or wild animal.

j. Proselytizing of any religion, faith, or practice.

k. Taking or retaining any property as individual souvenirs or trophies. This does not preclude the lawful acquisition of souvenirs that can be legally imported into the United States.

(1) Private or public property may be seized during military exercises or operations only on order of the Commander, when based on military necessity. Such property will be collected, processed, secured and stored for later return to the lawful owner. The wrongful taking of private property, even temporarily, is a violation of Article 121, Uniform Code of Military Justice.

(2) Public property seized by U.S. Armed Forces is the property of the United States. The wrongful retention of such property is a violation of Article 108, Uniform Code of Military Justice.

(3) No weapon, munitions, or military article of equipment obtained or acquired by any means other than official issue may be retained for personal use or shipped out of the USCENTCOM AOR for personal retention or control.

l. Wearing suggestive or otherwise inappropriate clothing in public outside of U.S. controlled areas. Inappropriate clothing includes, but is not limited to, the following: revealing blouses, short skirts, tight pants, shorts (men and women), earrings (men), ostentatious jewelry (men and woman), or any clothing with provocative or inflammatory artwork, slogans, emblems, or national symbols. Enclosure 2 to this Policy Letter lists specific prohibitions for men and women, in and out of uniform, in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere in the USCENTCOM AOR.

AFRD-SA-CDR

SUBJECT: Policy Letter Number 1 – Prohibited Activities

m. Running, bicycling, roller-blading, roller-skating, or otherwise engaging in any exercise activity, either individually or in a group, unless within the physical boundaries of Prince Sultan Air Base, Eskan Village, authorized civilian compounds, or other U.S. military facilities.

6. Introduction includes not only personal carrying of, but also any involvement, direct or indirect, in any form of importing, shipping, mailing, transporting, or otherwise conveying such items into Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, or any other country in the USCENCOM AOR.

7. Any item that violates this Policy Letter may be seized as contraband, destroyed, and/or used as evidence against the individual who possessed it.

8. Unit commanders, leaders and supervisors must brief their subordinates on all aspects of this Policy Letter and General Order Number 1A.

9. This Policy Letter supersedes and rescinds all previous Policy Letters on this subject and will be permanently displayed on all unit bulletin boards.

// ORIGINAL SIGNED //
THOMAS H. STANTON
COL, AD
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION:

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